

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A toilet plunger assembly comprising:
 - a) a cup assembly;
 - b) a tubular member having a first end portion and a second end portion, wherein said second end portion engages [[is fixed to]] said cup assembly, the first end portion including a threaded section; and
 - c) an elongated rod having a first end portion, a second end portion, [[and an outer diameter,]] said rod being slideable [[slideably engaged]] within said tubular member such that said rod is moveable between a collapsed position and an extended position, the second end portion of the rod including a first threaded section;
 - d) wherein said rod second end portion engages [[is removably joined to]] said cup assembly when said rod is in said collapsed position and said rod second end portion engages [[is removably joined to]] said tubular member first end portion when said rod is in said extended position, wherein the first threaded section of the rod threadedly engages the threaded section of the first end portion of the tubular member in the extended position.
2. (Original) The plunger assembly of claim 1 wherein said tubular member second portion comprises a threaded section.
3. (Currently amended) The plunger assembly of claim 2 wherein said cup assembly comprises an inverted suction cup, the plunger assembly having

threads adapted to engage the threaded section ~~[[threads]]~~ of the tubular member second portion.

4. (Currently amended) The plunger assembly of claim 1 wherein the threaded section of the rod second end portion said tubular member first portion comprises a threaded section disposed on an internal surface of said tubular member.

5. (Currently amended) The plunger assembly of claim 1 wherein the first threaded section of the rod second portion is disposed on an external surface of the rod ~~said tubular member first portion comprises a threaded section.~~

6. (Currently amended) The plunger assembly of claim 1 ~~[[5]]~~ wherein said rod second portion comprises a second threaded section adapted to engage a threaded opening of the cup assembly when the rod is in the collapsed position ~~the threads of the tubular member first portion.~~

7. (Currently amended) The plunger assembly of claim 6 ~~[[1]]~~ wherein the second threaded section of the rod second portion is disposed on the external surface of the rod distal to the first threaded section of the rod second portion ~~tubular member second portion comprises a threaded section disposed on an exterior surface of said tubular member.~~

8. (Currently amended) The plunger assembly of claim 7 wherein said rod second end portion comprises a stem extending axially from said rod and having an outer diameter less than an [[said rod]] outer diameter of the rod, wherein said stem comprises the second [[a]] threaded section disposed on an exterior surface of said stem.

9. (Original) The plunger assembly of claim 1 wherein said cup assembly comprises an inverted suction cup and a connector, said connector adapted to engage said rod second end portion.

10. (Currently amended) A toilet plunger assembly comprising:

- a) a plunger cup; and
- b) a handle assembly fixed to said cup, said handle assembly comprising:
 - i) a tubular member having a first end portion, a second end portion, and an axial length, wherein said second end portion engages [[is fixed to]] said cup, the first end portion including a threaded section; and
 - ii) an elongated rod comprising a first end portion, a second end portion, and an axial length, the second end portion of the rod including a first threaded section;
- c) wherein said rod is slideable [[slideably engaged]] within said tubular member such that said rod is moveable between a first position in which said rod second end portion engages [[is locked to]] said cup and a second position in which said rod second end portion engages [[is locked to]] said tubular member first end

portion, such that an axial length of the plunger assembly is longer in said second position than in said first position, wherein the first threaded section of the rod threadedly engages the threaded section of the first end portion of the tubular member in the second position.

11. (Currently amended) The plunger assembly of claim 10 wherein an axial rotation of said rod with respect to said cup disengages [[unlocks]] said rod from the cup when in said first position.

12. (Currently amended) The plunger assembly of claim 10 wherein an axial rotation of said rod with respect to said cup disengages [[unlocks]] said rod from the tubular member when in said second position.

13. (Original) The plunger assembly of claim 10 wherein said axial length of said rod is longer than said axial length of said tubular member.

14. (Currently amended) The plunger assembly of claim 10 wherein said cup comprises an inverted suction cup and a connector, said connector adapted to engage said rod second end portion when in the first position.

15. (Currently amended) A toilet plunger assembly comprising:

- a) an inverted suction cup;
- b) a connector having a first end and a second end, said second end

having an inner opening with first and second ~~[[a]]~~ threaded sections ~~[[section]]~~
disposed on an interior surface thereof;

c) a tubular member comprising a first end, a second end, an interior surface and an exterior surface, said first end having a threaded section disposed on said interior surface thereof and said second end having threaded section disposed on said exterior surface thereof, said second end threaded section adapted to engage the first threaded section ~~[[threads]]~~ of said connector second end; and

d) an elongated rod comprising a first end, a second end, an outer diameter, and an exterior surface, said second end having distal and proximal threaded sections disposed on an exterior surface thereof ~~[[in respect to said first end]]~~, said distal threaded section adapted to engage the second threaded section ~~[[threads]]~~ of said connector second end, and said proximal threaded section adapted to engage the threads of said tubular member first end;

e) wherein said rod is slideably engaged within said tubular member from a collapsed position to an extended position.

16. (Currently amended) The plunger assembly of claim 15 wherein the first threaded section of the connector second end is of a greater diameter than the second threaded section of said connector second end ~~said inner opening threaded section comprises a first inner threaded section and a second inner threaded section, wherein said first inner threaded section is adapted to engage the threads of said tubular member first end and said second inner threaded section is adapted to engage the threads of said rod member first end.~~

17. (Currently amended) The plunger assembly of claim 15 wherein said rod second ~~[[first]]~~ end comprises a stem portion extending axially from said rod having an outer diameter less than said rod outer diameter, the distal threaded section being disposed on the stem portion.

18. (Currently amended) The plunger assembly of claim 15 wherein an axial rotation of said rod with respect to said cup disengages ~~[[unlocks]]~~ said rod from the cup when in said collapsed position.

19. (Currently amended) The plunger assembly of claim 15 wherein an axial rotation of said rod with respect to said cup disengages ~~[[unlocks]]~~ said rod from the tubular member when in said extended position.

20. (Currently amended) A toilet plunger assembly comprising:

- a) a base assembly comprising:
 - i) an inverted suction cup; and
 - ii) a tubular member having a first end portion and a second end portion, wherein said second end portion engages ~~[[is fixed to]]~~ a top surface of said cup, the first end portion including a threaded section; and
- b) a handle assembly comprising:
 - i) an elongated rod having a first end portion and a second end portion, said rod being slideable ~~[[slideably engaged]]~~ within said tubular member such

that said rod is moveable between a collapsed position and an extended position, the second end portion of the rod including a first threaded section; and

ii) a grippable handle fixed to said rod first end portion;

c) wherein said rod second end portion engages [[is removably joined to]] said base assembly when said rod is in said collapsed position and said rod second end portion engages [[is removably joined to]] said tubular member first end portion when said rod is in said extended position, wherein the first threaded section of the rod threadedly engages the threaded section of the first end portion of the tubular member in the extended position.

Please add new claim 21.

21. (New) A toilet plunger assembly comprising:

- a) a cup assembly including an opening defining a threaded section;
- b) a tubular member having a first end portion and a second end portion, wherein the second end portion engages the cup assembly; and
- c) an elongated rod having a first end portion, a second end portion, the rod being slideable within the tubular member such that the rod is moveable between a collapsed position and an extended position, the second end portion of the rod including a threaded section;
- d) wherein the rod second end portion engages the cup assembly when the rod is in the collapsed position, wherein the threaded section of the rod threadedly engages the threaded section of the cup assembly in the collapsed position; and

e) the rod second end portion engages the tubular member first end portion when the rod is in the extended position.